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News Release

UMC Hosts Students at River Watch Forum

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Tuesday, March 8, 2005

The University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) was host to aspiring young scientists and environmental stewards when the10th anniversary of the River Watch program in the Red River Basin was held in Kiehle Auditorium on March 2. UMC's Natural Resources Department co-hosted the River Watch Forum attended by over 150 high school students from 19 schools in northwest Minnesota and northeastern North Dakota.

Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator of the Red River Watershed Management Board received a Distinguished Service to Conservation Award presented by UMC's CEO Joe Massey. The daylong program featured students presenting their findings, data analysis methods, and a poster contest. Laura Bell, Lab Services Coordinator in the Natural Resources Department and two Water Resource students Jen Kaser, Kellogg, MN, and Kevin Geitzen, Grand Forks, ND, handled registration and were the judges for the displays entered by some 18 schools from northwestern Minnesota and northeastern Minnesota.

The program started with the four schools on the Sand Hill River in 1995 and has grown successfully and vigorously over the years. Additional schools also monitor the southern basin and a forum for those students was held at Concordia College in Moorhead.

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